

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-14, and 16-20 are pending in the present application, Claim 9 having been amended, and Claim 15 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 9, 19, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated over Yoshida (JP 4-364063); Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Tsuji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,716,889), and further in view of Natsume et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,062, hereinafter Natsume) and Dasse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,399,505, hereinafter Dasse); Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshida; Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, and 16 were allowed; and Claims 11, 15, 19, and 20 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise not indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, and 16, and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 11, 15, 19, and 20. In light of this indication, Claim 9 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 15. According, Claim 9 (and any claims dependent thereon) are in condition for allowance.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

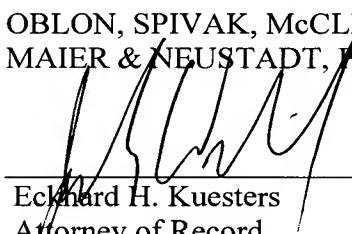
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